

The Empire Strikes

by Noggins

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>outcome for Luke as the Dark Lord tells his the truth about
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>father.
>
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>THE EMPIRE STRIKE BACK
(ALTERNATE ENDING)
>By Jonathan Evans

>Luke moved along the railing and up towards the control room.
>Vader
lunged against him but Luke blocked it with his lightsaber.
>Sparks
>flew all around them as Vader forced Luke backwards toward the
>gantry.
The Dark Lord spoke with his mechanical voice.
>"You are beaten. It is useless to resist. Don't let yourself
>be
destroyed as Obi-Wan did."
>
Luke answered by rolling sideways and thrusting his sword at
>Vader so
>viciously that he struck the Sith on the shoulder. The black
>armour
sparked and smoked and despite seeming injured, Vader
>recovered from
>this assault.

>By this time Luke had backed along the narrow edge of the gantry
>as
Vader came closer to him, slashing at the young Jedi with his

sword.

>Luke quickly span around the instrument complex attached to the gantry
but soon a slash of Vader's saber caused it to come in two and fall.

>
Luke felt a sudden pain as the saber that had just so easily cut

>through durasteel now rendered him without his hand. He pushed
his stump under his left armpit and moved along the gantry to the

>extreme end. Vader moved closer until Luke could no longer escape
any further.

>
"There is no escape," the Sith stated. "Don't make me destroy you

>Luke. You do not yet realise your importance. Join me and I will
complete your training. With our combined strength, we can end this

>destructive conflict and bring order to the galaxy."

>Luke screamed back at him. "I will never join you!"
Vader stood emotionless, lightsaber still in hand.

>"If only you knew the power of the dark side. Obi-Wan never
told you what happened to your father."

>Luke tried to block the words from his head but could not.

He
felt great anger aimed at the Dark Lord.

>"He told me enough! He told me you killed him!"

>Vader turned his lightsaber off. He would have smiled if not
for the mask covering his mouth tightly.

>"But he did not tell you *how* I killed him. Surprising since
he was there watching at all happen."

>
Luke felt the tears in his eyes. This was too much. He would

>have rathered it if Vader had revealed that he was his father.

But things were not that simple.

>
Vader continued. "I duelled with Kenobi on Aeten II as Skywalker

>came down on his pathetic ship. I almost had my old master into

the molten material. It would have destroyed him. He was so

>weak. But your pathetic father stopped me. Our lightsabers

clashed with great ferocity. I almost admired his anger."

>
Luke noticed the pain in his hand disappearing as his own anger

>increased with Vader's tale. He looked down the massive, almost

bottomless pit and wished he could end it all by dropping down

>it. The sound of the Dark Lord's voice brought him back to his

senses.

>
"The admiration soon disappeared as he began to calm. He used the

>Force to propell me closer to the edge which I had almost

pushed
Kenobi down. The dark side, however, is so much stronger. I

>lifted him in the air and soon he was dangling on the cliff

face
calling to Obi-Wan for help."

>
Surely Ben would have helped him! Luke's grip weakened on the

>gantry as if to test himself. Would he intentionally drop to
his inevitable death?

>
"But Kenobi was afraid. I sensed the fear on him. He could not

>help your father. He was frozen. It was his weakness. He had
not
been trained well enough. He could never teach anyone like the
>Emperor... my Emperor," Vader stopped and ignited his saber as
if
for effect. "He watched as I crushed your father's throat. He
>tried to stop but soon his hands were weakening. My weapon
quickly
cut through one hand..." he swished the weapon in his
hand. "Then
>the other. I saw him fall into the pit and as his skin melted
away
his skull screamed in pain before it too disappeared into
nothing."
>
Luke's eyes opened wide. "No. No. That's not true! That's
impossible."
>Vader held his arm out. "Search your feelings. You know it to
be
true."
>Luke lurched out at Vader. Without his weapon he was sure the
Force
would guide him to victory. As the Sith Lord's lightsaber
skewered
>him he was still sure that this wasn't true. The lights went
out
and Vader looked down on the pathetic body of the boy.
>
"One Skywalker, or two, I will destroy your lineage."
>
* * *
>
Many parsecs away on Dagobah a concerned Obi-Wan Kenobi turned
>to Yoda.
"He is lost to us," he frowned.
>"But there is another..." Yoda said without confidence.

> THE END <p><p>

End
file.